

THE
INFORMATIONS
OF
JOHN SERGEANT,
AND } *Gentlemen;*
DAVID MAURICE,
RELATING
TO THE
P^{ts} P^{ts} J^s H^s P^{ts} L^{ts} D^{ts},
(Deliver'd by them upon their respective *Oaths*)
REPORTED
To the HOUSE of
COMMONS,
Upon *Saturday* the 26th Day of *March*, 1681.
Then Ordered by the *Commons*
IN
PARLIAMENT,
To be forthwith Printed.

LONDON,
Printed for *Gabriel Kumbolt*, Book-Binder to His
Highness Prince *RUPERT*; And are to be Sold at his Shop
at the *Kings-Head*, over-against the *Meuse*. 1681.

THE
INFORMATIONS

JOHN SERGEANT

Contention

AND

DAVID MAIRAGE

REFUTING

TO THE

DISSENT

(Delivered by them upon their respective Oaths)

REPORTED

To the HOUSE of

COMMONS

Upon Sunday the 18th of May 1702

That the said John Sergeant

PARTIAL

and David Mairage

Printed for Charles Knapton, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, in London.

THE
Informations

OF
John Sergeant,
 AND *Gentlemen.*

David Maurice,

Relating to the **POPISH PLOT**, &c.

BEing in Company with an *English* Gentlewoman in *Flanders*, who is a *Roman-Catholick*, about the later end of *August*, 1679, and the name of *Mr. Gaven*, one of the *Five Jesuits* who suffered that Summer, coming into discourse, she began to expresse with some horreur the scandal she had received from a wicked piece of *Doctrine* he maintain'd in her hearing, which was, *That the Queen might Lawfully Kill the King for violating her Bed*: And, that when she set her self to oppose it as most unchristian *Doctrine*, and tending to Destroy Soul and Body both, and alledg'd, that therefore it was better to suffer it patiently for *God's* sake, he with much vehemency and earnestness stood to it, *That she might not onely lawfully do it, but was bound to it*; and that, if she did not, she was guilty of his greater *Damnation* in letting him continue so long in sin. This is the substance of what she Related, and, as near as I can remember, the Words. This Gentlewoman's surname is *Skypwith*, her Christen name (as I remember) *Mary*.

B

It

It pleas'd His most sacred Majesty, to whom (as my Duty bound me), I had writ it before, when I appear'd before His most Honourable Privy-Council, the last Day of October following, to ask me what were my present Thoughts of the truth of that Relation at the time that I heard it, all Circumstances weigh'd, to which being then upon my Oath, as truth and Conscience oblig'd me, I answered, That I did not believe it: For which Rashness and Uncharitableness of mine (as some interpret it) in entertaining that sentiment so easily upon the Testimony of one single person, great noise has been made against me, as if Passion had Byass'd me to that persuasion. Wherefore to clear my ingenuity and sincerity in this point to His Majesty and His Council (of whose good Opinions only I am Sollicitous) I humbly offer here the reasons which mov'd me to think this to be false.

I had particular reason to judge that this person was at this time that I knew her, and she related this, very scrupulously Conscientious and a good Woman; and I conceiv'd that her present disposition was most (and indeed only) to be considered in that present Relation; nor had I ever heard any harm of her former Life.

She seem'd particularly Conscientious in making this Relation, lifting up her Hands and Eyes to Heaven with these words: *God knows my Heart, I would not say it to gain the world if it were not true.*

[3.]
[1] had never heard nor could then discern that she
had the least pique against Mr. Green's Order.

She spoke it voluntarily, and in rising or moving her voice.

The manner, in which she deliver'd it, seemed very candid and unaffected; and it came out naturally and occasionally, nor did it at all look like a premeditated or thought thing.

She spoke it out of her sense of the scandal she received by it; which seem'd a move well becoming a good Christian; and so, an argument of her sincerity.

She told the same story the second time to another person, my self present; and it was the substance of it.

She never recommended it as a secret either to him or me, whereas one who forges would be apt to desire the concealment of the false story they relate; lest by discovering it, it may come to be confuted and themselves shamed: which she had the more reason to fear, because the thing related was of so high a consequence.

She told the same story to the persons present; which expos'd her to an easie confute if it were not true.

The Tenour also of the Discourse seem'd to render it credible, her Objection being such as was likely to come from a good well-meaning person of her pitch; and his Reply abetting it very
like

like a Man wilfully bent to maintain an absurd position (as is the manner of Passion and Heat) with advancing another more absurd.

Now, as these considerations inclin'd me strongly to think her sincere, so it seem'd to me she could not be mistaken in the sense of his Discourse, or misunderstand him; the Doctrine being about a matter of Fact of the highest concern in the world: and the Words which are apt to express it not being Artificial or Speculative, but natural and common Language. Besides, her Contest with him about it must needs have Clear'd his meaning.

These are the Reasons why I apprehended that Relation to be true : which yet I produce not here to Charge Mr. Gaven, but to Discharge my own Credit and Conscience, and to give your Majesty and your Council the best light I am able to judge of that business.

In Testimony of what's
above, I subscribe my
Name, Feb. 11. 16⁸⁰.

John Sergeant.

The reason why of the former I render credible her Opinion being such as was likely to come from a good well meaning person of that pitch; and his appearing in very

THE INFORMATION OF

David Morris.

I Underwritten do hereby upon Oath attest,
That being last *August* at *Brussels*, and go-
ing to see an old acquaintance, I found
Mr. *Serjeant* there (little thinking to see him
so near the *Internuncio*) he told me, there was
a *Gentlewoman* who said that Mr. *Gavan* main-
tained it was lawful for the *Queen* to kill the
King, for violating her *Bed*: which I hardly
believing, he brought me up stairs where she
was, where I heard it with my own ears. Af-
ter some discourse concerning the wickedness
of such doctrines, I asked her, Where this
happened? She answered (as I remember)
in *Covent-Garden*, at the *Brother-in-laws* of
Mr. *Gavan*, and named the persons that were
present, whom I knew not; nor did I think
further of it, more than to admire the indis-
cretion of his descending to such particulars,
and her acting his heat to maintain his *Paradox*,
when she opposed him: The rest, I knew to
be agreeable to their Principles; having bought

C

Escobar

Escobar some years since on purpose to see whether the Provincial Letters misrepresented them or not: where I found it lawful to kill a man that calumniated a Religious Order: and I am sure that what makes lawful for a Jesuite to kill a man that wrongs his Order, makes also lawful for a Wife to kill her Husband if he wrongs her Bed.

My going to *Brussels* was to see what became of the Benevolence sent by the Pope to those Countries for refug'd English Catholics; and found, who vow immediate obedience to the Pope to be the distributors, and who swore no Allegiance but to their King, to be debarred such publick favours: for the English Jesuite Procurator there, told a worthy Clergy Priest, there was nothing for him, meaning such as he: of which I know no Reason, unless it be that the Clergy would never admit of any extraordinary authority from *Rome*, unanimously agreed never to receive any Bulls or other Orders from *Rome* without the Kings Licence, and permission of the State, and ever opposed the Deposing Power: Duties which anciently belonged to the Imperial Crown of this Realm, and ought still to be observed by us. Which sufferings of theirs for so good a cause, is humbly submitted to your Majesties most gracious consideration.

Feb. 11.

1680.

David Morris.

This

THis Paper was presented to his Majesty in Council the 18th of *February*, 1679. by Mr. *John Serjeant* and Mr. *David Morris*; and being then read, they declared upon their Oaths that the Contents thereof was true. Whereupon it was Ordered by his Majesty, that this Paper should be kept safe in the Council Chest.

John Nicholas.

FINIS.

(2)

This Paper was presented to his Majesty
in Council the 18th of February, 1679.
by Mr. John Sijemant and Mr. David Morris;
and being then read, they declared upon their
Oaths that the Contents thereof was true.
Whereupon it was Ordered by his Majesty,
that this Paper should be kept safe in the Coun-
cil Chest.

John Nicholas.

FINIS

I Appoint *Gabriel Knibolt* to Print these
Informations, Perused and Signed by
me according to the Order of the
House of *Commons*; And that no other
Person presume to Print them, *March 26.*
1681.

Wi Williams, Speaker.